

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /062 W

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R 281515Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0531

INFO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0314

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GV SL

SUBJECT: EXPULSION OF SIERRA LEONE COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY
FROM GUINEA

REF: FREETOWN 0368

1. WE HAVE ONLY RUMORS AND REPORTS CIRCULATING IN DIPLOMATIC COLONY IN CONAKRY TO SUPPORT INFORMATION CONVEYED IN REFTEL REGARDING EXPULSION OF SIERRA LEONE COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY ON FEB 25. AT THAT TIME COUNSELOR (D.B. Q. KAMARA) WAS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES SINCE NEW AMBASSADOR SAHR RANDOLPH FILLE-FABOE HAD NOT YET PRESENTED CREDENTIALS. MOST RUMORS CIRCULATING HERE INDICATE THAT GOG HEARD OF KAMARA PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT INABILITY IMPORT FOOD SUPPLIES FROM FREETOWN AND INABILITY PURCHASE SUCH ITEMS HERE BECAUSE OF RECENT GUINEAN ECONOMIC MEASURES. RECENT CLOSING OF SIERRA LEONE BORDER ALSO HIGHLY UNPOPULAR WITH SIERRA LEONE (AND OTHER AFRICAN) DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, SINCE MANY OF THEM IMPORTED FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES REGULARLY FROM FREETOWN.

2. KAMARA VERY WELL KNOWN TO OFFICERS OF THIS EMBASSY. HE HAS NOT BEEN SEEN FOR PAST WEEK, AND IS DEFINITELY NO
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LONGER LIVING IN HIS HOUSE. ACCORDING LOCAL RUMOR MILL, HE WAS GIVEN ONLY TWO HOURS TO LEAVE.

3. SIERRA LEONE EMBASSY ITSELF HAS MADE NO COMMENT AND IN FACT ANOTHER OFFICER OF EMBASSY, WHO USUALLY HAD FREQUENT CONTACT WITH US, HAS NOT APPEARED DURING PAST WEEK AT SEVERAL SOCIAL FUNCTIONS, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND HE IS STILL IN CONAKRY.

4. ONE OF MINISTERS SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT WAS VISITING CONAKRY WEEKEND BEFORE INCIDENT OCCURRED. VISIT APPARENTLY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH EXPULSION OF KAMARA; WE HAVE REPORTS INDICATE THAT MINISTER WAS HERE TO MAKE CONTACT IN ECONOMIC FIELD WITH SEVERAL EASTERN EUROPEAN EMBASSIES THAT HAVE RESIDENT MISSIONS IN GUINEA BUT NOT IN FREETOWN. MINISTER (WE NOT SURE OF NAME OR POSITION) WAS PRESENT AT STUDENTS RALLY ON FEB 24 AT PALAIS DU PEUPLE, WHERE HE WAS INTRODUCED BRIEFLY BY PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE.

5. NEW SIERRA LEONE AMBASSADOR FILLE-FABOE PRESENTED CREDENTIALS TO SEKOU TOURE ON FEB 25, WITH USUAL PUBLICITY OVER GUINEAN RADIO. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT VP KAMARA-TAYLOR, MINEXTAFF LUKE, OR ANY OTHER SIERRA LEONE MINISTERS VISITED CONAKRY FEB 25.

6. IT APPEARS THAT GUINEAN GOVERNMENT, WHILE IT PROBABLY HAS DEFINITELY EXPELLED KAMARA, HAS MADE EFFORTS LOCALLY TO MINIMIZE EFFECT OF EXPULSION ON GUINEA/SIERRA LEONE RELATIONS. ENTIRE AFFAIR REMAINS SOMETHING OF MYSTERY HERE; GUINEAN OFFICIALS HAVE MADE NO COMMENT NOR IS THERE LIKELY TO BE ONE.
MACDONALD

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